



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 7, 2003

H.R. 1899 **Cape Fox Land Entitlement Adjustment Act of 2003**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on October 1, 2003

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1899 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill could affect direct spending (including offsetting receipts), but we estimate that any such impacts would not exceed \$10,000 a year.

H.R. 1899 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to Cape Fox Corporation, an Alaska Native village corporation, the surface estate to 99 acres of federal lands located within the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. The bill also would direct the Secretary to convey to Sealaska Corporation, an Alaska Native regional corporation, the subsurface estate to those lands. According to the Forest Service, those lands are not expected to generate significant receipts over the next 10 years; hence, CBO estimates that conveying them would have a negligible impact on the federal budget.

In addition, H.R. 1899 would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to Cape Fox Corporation the surface and subsurface estates to about 2,664 acres of national forest lands in exchange for other lands currently owned by that corporation. Following that exchange, the Secretary would be authorized to convey to Sealaska Corporation the surface and subsurface estates to federal lands to be identified by that corporation in exchange for its interests in the subsurface estate of roughly 5,204 acres of other lands. Under the bill, any lands or interests exchanged must be equal in value.

H.R. 1899 does not specify all of the lands to be exchanged under the bill but does identify areas from which such lands would be selected. Based on information provided by the Forest Service about the level of timber harvesting expected to occur on lands that could be affected by the bill, however, CBO estimates that any forgone offsetting receipts from such harvests probably would not exceed \$10,000 a year.

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The

conveyances and exchanges authorized by the bill would be voluntary on the part of Cape Fox Corporation and Sealaska Corporation.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Megan Carroll and Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.